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April 25, 2014

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. *Jonathan E Fielding MD*
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **UPDATE ON INVASIVE MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE VACCINATION**

This is to provide you with an update on actions the Department of Public Health (DPH) has taken to address vaccination and community outreach for invasive meningococcal disease (IMD). On April 7, 2014, I notified your Board about an increase in cases of IMD in 2014 among men who have sex with men (MSM), including those who are HIV-positive, and new vaccination recommendations issued by DPH.

Vaccination

Since April 3, 2014, DPH has provided 625 doses of vaccine through our public health clinics. DPH offered extended weekday hours and provided weekend clinics to meet initial demand. Starting on April 28, 2014, DPH will resume regular vaccination clinic business hours and continue to monitor demand to determine if additional hours are needed. DPH received approval to use Section 317-purchased vaccine from the California Department of Public Health for the five clinics designated to provide the vaccination. Section 317 meningitis vaccine availability is normally restricted for use among adults with no health insurance. The State authorized DPH to use the Section 317 meningitis vaccine in both insured and uninsured adults at the five specified clinics due to the revised vaccination recommendations. This allowed DPH to provide vaccinations to any MSM who came to our clinics. It is important to note that the State's authorization was limited to the designated DPH clinics for which prior approval was obtained. However, DPH continues to request that those who have insurance use their normal medical provider for vaccination.

In addition, DPH distributed over 1,330 doses of vaccine to community partners and the Department of Health Services for use in their clinics and outreach events. This vaccine was purchased separately from the Section 317 vaccine.

Community Outreach and Education

Updated Case Information

On April 18, 2014, DPH developed a new surveillance report on 2014 IMD cases and posted it on the Department's webpage. This surveillance report will be updated as new cases are confirmed.

Stakeholder Updates

DPH is continuing outreach to community partners that work with gay and bisexual men and other MSM about IMD. These activities have included sharing information on meningitis with community members, providers, and other stakeholders; hosting conference calls with community partners; providing updates at the Commission on HIV and the Division of HIV and STD Programs' (DHSP) quarterly Medical Advisory Committee; and attending community forums where IMD was discussed.

Community Education Plan

DPH has also been working with community partners to develop a community education plan. DPH hosted a conference call on April 17, 2014 to provide updated case information, discuss community outreach and education activities, and to solicit participation in the development of educational materials. DPH hosted an in-person meeting with community partners the following day to refine a community outreach and education strategy. Our implementation plan includes the development of collateral materials such as wallet/post cards, proposed messaging for use through social media, and identification of print media outlets. DPH also finalized a meningitis informational toolkit in English and Spanish for use in community education efforts. Meningococcal disease is now included on the DPH Speakers' Bureau request form which can be accessed through DPH's webpage. DPH is also developing training on IMD for lay community members as well as medical providers.

DPH will be conducting educational outreach and vaccinations at the Christopher Street West LA Pride festival in June.

Interagency Coordination

DPH has maintained communication with the California Department of Public Health, Long Beach, and Pasadena health departments, and the health departments of neighboring jurisdictions about Los Angeles County meningitis cases and DPH vaccine recommendations. DPH informed all statewide local health officers at a recent meeting of the California Conference of Local Health Officers. Orange, Riverside and San Diego Counties have issued alerts referencing DPH's recommendations in advance of the Palm Springs White Party, which will take place April 25-28, with approximately 30,000, primarily MSM attendees expected.

DPH will provide your Board with additional updates as needed. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please let me know.

JEF:jb

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors